

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 08818 191212Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 HA-05 TRSE-00 /087 W
-----056971 191648Z /47

R 191207Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6902
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: SHUM EG UG
SUBJECT: TRAVEL OF BARON VON BLOMBERG
REF: BONN 4707

1. BARON VON BLOMBERG, PRESIDENT OF WORLD UNITED
RELIGIONS ORGANIZATION (WURO) CALLED AGAIN ON EMBASSY
MARCH 17 AND CONVEYED FOLLOWING:

2. UGANDA. VON BLOMBERG ALSO MET WITH SHEIKH OF AL
AZHAR DR. ABDUL HALIM MAHMUD MARCH 16. PRESENT AT
MEETING WAS UGANDAN EMBOFF WHO ATTENDED IN THE ABSENCE
OF HIS AMBASSADOR. UGANDAN EMBOFF SAID THAT EVEN THOUGH
THERE WAS RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN UGANDA, THERE WERE CASES
OF CHRISTIANS KILLING MUSLIMS AND THOUGHT THAT WURO
COULD DO SOMETHING TO HELP THE PERSECUTED MUSLIMS. VON
BLOMBERG SAID HIS ORGANIZATION COULD NOT INTERVENE
UNLESS REQUESTED TO DO SO BY A RELIGIOUS GROUP. HE
SAID THAT HE WOULD RAISE THE QUESTION OF RELIGIOUS PER-
SECUTION IN UGANDA WITH SADAT AND SUGGEST THAT HE (SADAT)
RAISE IT WITH IDI AMIN DURING THEIR MEETING APRIL 4.

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DR. MAHMUD HAS APPARENTLY DECIDED NOT TO SEND A MISSION
TO UGANDA.

3. EGYPT. AT THE REQUEST OF THE AMERICAN COPTIC
ASSOCIATION, VON BLOMBERG CALLED ON THE COPTIC PATRIARCH
IN CAIRO, POPE SHENUDA. SHENUDA HAD SAID THAT
COPTS WERE NOT BEING PERSECUTED BY GOE BUT THERE WERE

INSTANCES OF ACTIONS AGAINST COPTS BY FANATIC MUSLIM GROUPS.

4. HRC. VON BLOMBERG SAID MINSTATE BOUTROS GHALI HAD MADE ARRANGEMENTS FOR HIM TO CALL ON EGYPTIAN HRC REP IN GENEVA MARCH 28. HE REQUESTED EMBASSY INFORM U.S. MISSION GENEVA THAT HE WILL CALL UPON ARRIVAL IN GENEVA TO MAKE APPOINTMENT WITH U.S. REP TO DISCUSS RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION IN UGANDA.

5. VON BLOMBERG DEPARTS CAIRO MARCH 18 FOR GERMANY. HE WILL BE IN GENEVA ON MARCH 28 AND RETURN TO CAIRO MARCH 31 FOR HIS MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT SADAT AND IDI AMIN. BOUTROS GHALI HAD SUGGESTED THAT VON BLOMBERG ASK THE APPROXIMATELY 35 LEADERS OF WURO TO SEND STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT TO SADAT SIMILAR TO THE ONE WHICH VON BLOMBERG WILL PRESENT TO THE PRESIDENT. VON BLOMBERG SAID HE WOULD DO THIS, BUT DID NOT KNOW WHAT THE RESPONSE WOULD BE. EILTS

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